

Timeline of Huntington History

- 1653 First purchase of land from the Matinecock, establishing the Town of Huntington (Town governed by a “New England” style Town meeting)
- 1656 Second purchase of land from the Matinecock, adding eastern portion of Huntington
- 1657 First school established; Jonas Holdsworth, teacher
- 1658 Old First Church founded, the oldest religious institution in Huntington (Rev. William Leverich, the first minister from 1658-1669, was also Huntington’s first miller)
Thomas Powell began service as the first recorder (Town Clerk)
- 1663 John Lome (Lum or Lume) chosen as the first constable
- 1664 British gain control of Manhattan and Long Island from the Dutch, establishing governance by the Duke of York; Duke’s Laws govern the lives of Huntington residents until 1669
- 1665 Old First Church constructed Huntington’s first “meeting house” in accordance with Duke’s Laws at the corner of Meeting House Brook (now Prime Ave.) and Main St.
- 1666 Governor Richard Nicolls issued patent defining Huntington’s territory & boundaries
Town was inhabited by 57 freeholders and heads of families
- 1683 Governor Thomas Dongan convened representative assembly and established Suffolk County
- 1684 Town was inhabited by 84 freeholders and heads of families
- 1688 Governor Thomas Dongan issued new Town charter, authorizing governing body of elected trustees
- 1694 Huntington’s first seven Trustees elected.
- 1694-99 John Adams served as the first Town Supervisor
- 1715 Old First Church constructed new meeting house at current location (125 Main St.)
- 1748 St. John’s Episcopal Church built on East Street (now Park Ave.) in Huntington
- 1752 Tide mill built by Dr. Zophar Platt, first physician in Huntington

- 1759 Town's first public library formed with 115 books, 39 members, and Rev. Ebenezer Prime as the "Library Keeper;" library dissolved in 1768, but re-established intermittently in 1801, 1817, 1843, & 1869
- 1761 Country's first publication of poems by an African American, Jupiter Hammon who was enslaved by the Lloyd family
- 1762 The last "Indian Deed" with the Matinecock settles lingering questions about prior purchases of Indian lands
- 1774 Huntington Declaration of Rights adopted
- 1776 On July 22, the Declaration of Independence is read on the Village Green; Huntington Liberty Flag first raised.

 From August 22-29, Huntington members of the Suffolk Co. Militia participated in the Battle of Long Island, a British victory; the original Huntington Liberty Flag is captured by Hessian soldiers fighting for the British

 On September 1, British troops begin occupation of Huntington; the occupation would last until March 1783.

 In mid-September, Captain Nathan Hale landed on the shore of Huntington Bay at the start of his tragic spy mission; captured just a few days later, he was executed in New York City on September 22, 1776.
- 1781 On July 12, a combined force of French and American vessels with infantry sailed across Long Island Sound and unsuccessfully attacked Fort Franklin on Lloyd's Neck

 On October 2-3, one hundred American soldiers crossed Long Island Sound and launched a successful early morning raid on British Fort Slongo. Sgt. Elijah Churchill, who led the charge, was wounded and later became the first recipient of General Washington's newly created Badge of Military Merit, now known as the Purple Heart.
- 1782 Col. Benjamin Thompson, an American loyalist in charge of British troops, orders the Old First Church demolished and uses the lumber to build Fort Golgotha on the Town Burying Ground on Main Street.
- 1783 In March, British occupation of Huntington ends; Fort Golgotha is torn down by residents
- 1784 Old First Presbyterian Church is rebuilt on its 1715 site
- 1786 First Huntington enslaved person freed by decree in his owner's will

- 1790 On April 23, President Washington had dinner at Platt's Tavern on the southeast corner of Main St. and Park Ave. in Huntington during his tour of Long Island
- Huntington's population was 2,000.
- 1799 NY State adopts Manumission Act with procedure for owners, prior to their death, to voluntarily free enslaved persons
- 1800 First Huntington enslaved person freed under the NY State Manumission Act
- 1810 Census records Huntington's population as 4,424
- 1816-20 Cold Spring Harbor woolen mills built; one for carding and spinning, and one for weaving and fulling
- 1827 Slavery abolished in New York State
- 1828 Huntington Methodist Church purchased property on Main St. in Huntington and began construction
- 1835 St. John's Episcopal Church built in Cold Spring Harbor by Oliver Smith Sammis, builder & architect.
- 1836 First whaling voyage from Cold Spring Harbor began with the sailing of the Monmouth
- Universalist Church first established at 6 Nassau Rd., Huntington.
- 1838 Walt Whitman began publishing The Long-Islander
- 1839 John Wood's General Store ledger records coal shipment unloaded in Huntington, marking the beginning of the Town's transition from cord wood to this new energy source.
- 1842 Cold Spring Harbor Methodist Church is established (merged with Huntington Methodist Church in 1975)
- 1843 Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, the Town's first African American church, is established.
- 1849 Roman Catholic Church in West Neck established on the present site of St. Patrick's Cemetery (burned down in 1867 and rebuilt on Main Street at Anderson Place), renamed St. Patrick's Church).
- 1851 Huntington Rural Cemetery is established

- 1852 Steamboats sailed from Lloyd's dock, Cold Spring Harbor
- 1858 The Alice departs Cold Spring Harbor on the last whaling voyage from this port
First Huntington Union Free School completed; 26 graduates in first class
- 1862 The Alice returns to Cold Spring Harbor ending the last whaling voyage from this port
Answering President Lincoln's July 1 call for additional troops during the Civil War,
Hewitt J. Long & George S. Sammis begin mustering Company E of the 127th Regiment
in Huntington.
- 1864 Central (Second) Presbyterian Church established
- 1868 Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) begins service to Huntington
Huntington Baptist Church established
- 1872 NY State Legislature passed act authorizing separation of the southern portion of the Town
to form the Town of Babylon; Huntington's Board of Trustees implemented land transfer
on Jan. 3, 1873

NY State abolished the separate office of "Trustee," transferring Town governance to a
six-member Town Board (Supervisor, Town Clerk, and four Justices of the Peace.).

First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn established

The family of Simon Hirschfeld became the first Jewish family to settle in Huntington
- 1875 Mrs. Mary Talmadge starts Huntington Library Association; opens library May 17th in
Issac Adam's store with Miss Mina Downs as first librarian.
- 1887 First volume of Huntington Town records is compiled, transcribed and annotated by
Charles R. Street
- 1885 Twenty-five Huntington subscribers petitioned for telephone switchboard
- 1892 The Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Building constructed as the Town's first dedicated
library building.
- 1893 Huntington Gas and Electric received permit to install electricity
- 1894 Village of Northport is incorporated
- 1898 Electric trolley line established in Huntington

- 1899 Samuel Ballton is acclaimed as “Greenlawn’s Pickle King” for growing 1.5 million pickles in one season.
- 1903 Huntington Historical Society founded on the occasion of Huntington’s 250th Anniversary
- 1906 Huntington Jewish Center, Huntington’s first synagogue, established
- 1908 Construction begins on the Long Island Motor Parkway (a.k.a. Vanderbilt Parkway)
Huntington’s first public park and beach (Halesite Park) opened
St. Peter’s Lutheran Church established
- 1910 First Huntington Town Hall constructed for this purpose is built at 227 Main Street
William K. Vanderbilt II begins construction of “Eagle’s Nest” estate in Centerport (completed 1935).
Evergreen Baptist Church established
- 1913 Huntington’s first regular policeman, John Trainer, is hired
St. Hugh of Lincoln Church established
- 1915 Joseph Cantrell built and sold the forerunner of the station wagon, a “depot wagon”
- 1916 Huntington Hospital built on land donated by Cornelia Prime
- 1917 The Long-Islander reported 26 men responded to Pres. Wilson’s call to serve in U.S. Naval Reserve
New York Ave. is paved from the Huntington train station to Main St., becoming the Town’s first paved public road
Women in the Trade School canning kitchen put up 5,000 jars of fruit & vegetables for the war effort.
- 1920 Census records Huntington’s population as 13,893
August Heckscher dedicates and opens to the public his new art museum in Heckscher Park.
- 1924 Village of Huntington Bay is incorporated
- 1925 Village of Asharoken is incorporated

- 1926 Village of Lloyd Harbor is incorporated
- 1927 Motor buses replace the Electric Trolley in Huntington
- 1928 Huntington's first Planning Board is appointed
- 1933 Adoption of Huntington's first Comprehensive Plan
- The position of Town Clerk was dropped from the Town Board, reducing its membership to five.
- 1934 Huntington's first zoning ordinance is adopted
- 1936 Whaling Museum Society founded to preserve history of Cold Spring Harbor's whaling era.
- 1938-45 Bertha Rembaugh served as Huntington's first woman Justice of the Peace
- 1942 Whaling Museum Society opens Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum on present site.
- 1949 Richard H. Robertson hired as Huntington's first black policeman; serves with the Huntington Police Dept. until 1960 when it is merged into the Suffolk County Police Dept. (SCPD); retires from SCPD in 1970 as sergeant.
- 1950 Census records Huntington's population as 47,506
- Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum opens to the general public on the tycoon's former estate, "Eagles Nest"
- 1952 Temple Beth El established
- 1953 West Hill Baptist Church established
- 1956 St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church established
- 1957 First Church of Christ, Scientist established
- 1960 Huntington Police Department merges into the newly created Suffolk County Police Department
- 1966 Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church established in Centerport
- 1967 Mary Rose McGee elected as Huntington's first woman Town Clerk.
- 1980 Census records Huntington's population as 201,512

1989	Toni Rettaliata elected as Huntington's first woman Town Supervisor
2000	Census records Huntington's population as 195,289
2010	Census records Huntington's population as 203,264